

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 600

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to designate February 2012 as "St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among U.S. children between infancy and 15 years old; and

WHEREAS, 11,210 new cases of pediatric cancer were estimated to have occurred in children aged 0-14 years in 2011; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, more than 260 individuals under 20 years of age are found to have cancer each year and

WHEREAS, childhood cancer affects all ethnic groups, socioeconomic classes, and geographical regions; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, located in the heart of Memphis, Tennessee, is internationally recognized for its pioneering research and treatment of children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was founded in 1962 by the late entertainer Danny Thomas, who always said, "No child should die in the dawn of life," and, against many odds, became pivotal in one of the great success stories of modern medicine - transforming the most common form of childhood cancer from a virtual death sentence to a treatable disease; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's discoveries have helped push overall survival rates for childhood cancers from 20 percent when the hospital opened to 80 percent today; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital continues to be a global resource for childhood cancer eradication by rapidly and freely sharing its research findings; and

WHEREAS, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a leader in understanding the long-term effects of childhood cancer treatment and pursuing improved treatments that ensure the best possible quality of life for survivors; and

WHEREAS, in addition to pediatric cancer research, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a leader in sickle cell disease research and is a globally prominent research center for influenza; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has been instrumental in maintaining a recurring appropriation to reimburse St. Jude for the expense of Tennessee residents travelling to and from Memphis for their care at St. Jude; and

WHEREAS, members of the House of Representatives have been instrumental in raising money for St. Jude through their annual West Tennessee House Democratic Caucus Golf Tournament, which has become the "Tennessee House Members for St. Jude Golf Tournament"; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has passed legislation that benefitted St. Jude and advanced scientific research in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, recognizing St. Jude's importance to the City of Memphis and to the State of Tennessee, was instrumental in keeping St. Jude in Memphis in the mid-1980's when it was actively being recruited to relocate to another city; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that February 2012 is hereby designated "St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Month" in Tennessee to honor the 50th anniversary of this national resource and point of pride for Tennessee. During February 2012, we encourage all citizens to join in honoring those who are battling catastrophic childhood diseases, those who have beaten their opponent and those who have lost their battle, the families of those affected, all those involved in their care, and the medical and scientific professionals who continue to improve treatments and find cures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.